BOOOOM

EREN!!

Episode 53: Smoke Signal

WHAT'S WRONG, EREN?! FINISHED ALREADY ?!

HHBSSSSSSHH

HEY, FOUR EYES.

STAND!!

HUMANITY'S FUTURE IS RIDING ON YOU!!

GET UP!!

I KNOW THAT !!

ALSO, EREN'S ASS IS HANGING OUT.

HE'S NOT EVEN TEN METERS TALL, AND HE'S MISSING SOME FLESH.

DON'T YOU THINK HE LOOKS DIFFERENT THIS TIME?

IF YOU DON'T, WE'RE DIGGING YOU OUT OF THERE!

IF SO, GIVE ME SOME SORT OF SIGNAL !!

EREN!! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STILL MOVE YOUR TITAN?!

HEY, THAT GLOOMY LITTLE BRAT IS IGNORING ORDERS AGAIN.

SHOULD WE PUNISH HER?

NO, HE'S NOT RE-SPOND-ING. WE'RE DONE!

THAP

THAK THAK

MIKASA!

Manga Fire.co

LET ME DO IT!!

WAIT, STOP! EREN'S BLEED-ING!

SBLLT

SBLLT

SBLLT

EREN, YOU'RE SERIOUSLY HOT RIGHT NOW!!

HOT! HOT!!

HE MIGHT END UP JUST TURNING INTO A TITAN IF WE LEFT HIM LIKE THIS!! WOULD IT BE OKAY TO TRY IT OUT?! OR WOULD THAT MAKE ME A BAD PERSON?!

HE'S MORE FUSED WITH THE TITAN'S BODY, LIKE THEY'RE BECOMING ONE!

HANGE?!

SBLLT

WOW... THIS IS INCRED-IBLE! HE'S WAY MORE ATTACHED TO IT THAN HE WAS EARLIER!

SQUAD LEADER!! DO YOU HAVE ANY HUMAN COMPAS-SION AT ALL?!

WE'LL NEED IT FOR COM-PARISON LATER! HURRY!

HURRY!! GET A SKETCH OF THIS!! IS HE GOING TO GET HIS OLD FACE BACK?!

AAHH!!

SBLLT

WHOOOAH! MOBLIT, LOOK AT THIS! EREN'S FACE IS SERIOUSLY MESSED UP!!

SBLAM

SBLAM

OH...

SWOOSH

SSSHHHH

HAAH

HAAH

SORRY... GOT CARRIED AWAY AGAIN...

THUD

ALL TROOPS, WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY!!

EXPERIMENT COMPLETE !!

...SO THEY FAILED, AFTER ALL.

MAKE ABSO-LUTELY SURE THAT THERE WERE NO WIT-NESSES !!

WE'RE WITH-DRAWING! SEARCH THE PERI-METER!

YES, SIR!

YOU GET IN THE SAME CARRIAGE AS EREN.

ZAKK

HE'S... FINE. I THINK. HE'LL BE HANDSOME AS EVER IN NO TIME! I THINK!

ROLL ROLL

HOLD ON !!

EREN!!

ROLL ROLL ROLL

Manga Fuego

GGGTT

THAT TELLTALE SMOKE GOES UP WHENEVER HE TURNS INTO A TITAN. EVEN DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS...

WE REALLY CAN'T DO THIS QUIETLY, CAN WE...?

...WE NEED TO ASSUME THAT THEY'RE WATCHING US FROM SOMEWHERE...

I SLEPT FOR A WHOLE DAY...?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

ANYWAY, DO YOU REMEMBER THE EXPERIMENT WE RAN?

HUH?

MIKASA PROBABLY WON'T SLICE ME TO SHREDS NOW.

HM?

I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL.

HOW DID THE "HARDENING" GO...?

I... DON'T REMEMBER A SINGLE THING FROM THE EXPERIMENT...

NO...

WE OBSERVED NOTHING LIKE THAT PHENOMENON WHEN YOU WERE A TITAN.

UN-FORTU-NATE-LY...

WE CHECKED TO SEE IF ANYTHING WAS LEFT OF YOUR TITAN BODY AFTER THE EXPERIMENT, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING.

NO...

NOTHING AT ALL? REALLY?

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THIS IS HOW THE EXPERI-MENT WENT.

YOU TRANSFORMED INTO A TITAN IN ORDER TO HARDEN YOUR BODY AND FILL A GIANT CAVE THAT STOOD IN FOR WALL MARIA.

BUT SINCE NOTHING HAPPENED, WE PROCEEDED WITH OUR BACKUP PLAN AND RAN ENDURANCE AND INTELLIGENCE TESTS.

I REMEM-BER HOW THE PLAN WENT...

BUT NOTHING ABOUT THE RESULTS ...

WELL...

THE FIRST TITAN WAS A 15-ME-TER CLASS ...

THE SAME SIZE AS THE ONES YOU'VE MADE APPEAR IN THE PAST.

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IT SEEMS YOUR MOUTH IS NOT STRUC-TURED-FOR SPEECH.

WE TRIED TO HAVE YOU SPEAK, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.

YOU SEEMED FULLY CONSCIOUS, AND FOLLOWED ANY ORDERS, NO MATTER WHO GAVE THEM TO YOU.

WE GAVE YOU SIMPLE ORDERS AT FIRST, LIKE TO RAISE ONE FOOT OR WAVE YOUR ARMS.

YOU WERE ABLE TO DO FAIRLY DETAILED JOBS. YOU COULD PROBABLY BUILD A CASTLE AS A TITAN QUITE EASILY.

NEXT, WE HAD YOU PERFORM TASKS USING LOGS AND ROPE.

YOU HAD BEEN WRITING, "I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HARDEN MYSELF."

IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE WRITING IN THE GROUND IN ORDER TO COMMUNI-CATE TO US.

BUT AFTER AN HOUR OR SO PASSED, WE SAW A CHANGE.

AFTER THAT, YOUR WRITING BECAME SO JUMBLED THAT WE COULDN'T READ WHAT IT SAID. ...YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE IN PAIN... DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT IT AT ALL?

WHAT ?!

THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU INEXPLICABLY WROTE "WHAT MY FATHER DID TO ME."

...AFTER THAT, YOU WRITHED AROUND FOR ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES...

I DON'T ...

WE COULD TELL THEN THAT YOUR MEMORY WAS CLOUDY, AND THAT YOU WERE ONLY HALF-CONSCIOUS.

THEN YOU EXITED YOUR TITAN, PROBABLY OF YOUR OWN CHOICE.

...AND YOU APPEARED AS A 13-METER CLASS TITAN.

YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO HARDEN YOURSELF THE SECOND TIME, EITHER...

AFTER YOU RESTED FOR HALF AN HOUR, YOU TRIED TURNING INTO A TITAN ONCE MORE.

NONE OF OUR ORDERS REACHED YOU, AND YOU SEEMED TO BE INCREDIBLY HUNGRY. YOU ATE THE HOUSE YOU BUILT EARLIER.

WE TRIED TO RUN THE EARLIER INTELLIGENCE TESTS AGAIN, BUT COULDN'T.

YOU RESTED FOR ANOTHER THIRTY MINUTES, THEN TRIED TO TURN INTO A TITAN FOR A THIRD TIME.

WE HAD TO HELP YOU GET OUT OF YOUR TITAN.

YOU RAN WILD FOR A LITTLE LONGER, THEN SEEMED TO RUN OUT OF ENERGY, AS YOU TURNED BACK INTO A HUMAN.

IT WAS EVEN MORE FUSED WITH YOUR BODY, AND TEARING YOU OUT WAS A LOT OF WORK...

THAT TIME, YOUR TITAN WAS LESS THAN TEN METERS TALL... IT WAS SO INCOMPLETE THAT YOU COULDN'T STAND ON YOUR OWN.

...TO RETAKE WALL MARIA...

...THIS MEANS WE WON'T BE ABLE TO START IMMEDI-ATELY ON THE OPERATION ...

...SO AT THE VERY LEAST...

GRIT

I COULDN'T HARDEN MY TITAN BODY...

ALL BE-CAUSE ...

AND EVERYONE'S BEEN MISERABLE TODAY BECAUSE OF IT.

IT WAS A REAL DISAPPOINT-MENT TO US.

THAT'S EX-ACTLY RIGHT.

IN ANY CASE, WE'RE IN A SHITTY SITUA-TION.

WHAT'S NEXT? TITANS MIGHT RISE UP OUT OF THE GROUND. MAYBE THEY'LL COME RAINING DOWN FROM THE SKY... AND HUMANITY'S STILL A PACK OF TOOTH-LESS PREY ANIMALS.

WE CAN'T LET ANY MORE TIME GO TO WASTE.

RIGHT NOW, HE CAN'T CLOSE THAT HOLE.

BUT SO WHAT? WHY DOES IT MATTER THAT HE **TRIED** HIS **BEST?**

I KNOW THAT.

...EREN DID EVERY-THING HE COULD.

GOING OVER OUR SHORTCOMINGS AND BITCHING ABOUT OUR SITUATION IS AN IMPORTANT RITUAL.

HOLD ON. I'M JUST BEING AN ASSHOLE. I'M NOT BLAMING HIM.

BUT... BLAMING EREN FOR THAT...

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TAKE A WHIFF. INSIDE THESE WALLS, THE AIR'S ALWAYS STUNK LIKE TRASH.

IT'S BEEN THAT WAY FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS. WE'VE ALWAYS LIVED IN SHIT.

THAT'S OUR SITUA-TION.

I DIDN'T NOTICE IT UNTIL JUST A FEW YEARS AGO.

AFTER ALL, I'VE SUCKED IN THIS STINK SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN.

I SAW IT AS NORMAL.

BUT THE AIR I BREATHED OUTSIDE THE WALLS WAS DIFFER-ENT.

YES, LIFE OUT THERE IS HELL...

...BUT IT'S GOT SOMETHING THE WALLS DON'T. FREEDOM.

OUT THERE, I FINALLY SAW WHAT I'D BEEN MISSING.

...IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT LEVI'S TRYING TO SAY IS...

...

...WE LEARNED THAT YOU CAN'T HARDEN YOUR TITAN BODY. AND THAT'S A SUCCESS.

WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE FOR LETTING OFF THAT SMOKE SIGNAL...

...BUT OUR JOB NOW IS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THESE RESULTS.

EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED DURING THIS EXPERIMENT GAVE US USEFUL INFORMA-TION.

THAT'S NOT ALL, EITHER!

WE ALSO LEARNED HOW LONG YOU CAN STAY A TITAN AFTER MULTIPLE TRANSFORMA-TIONS, AND WE GOT A ROUGH IDEA OF YOUR VERSATILITY AND LIMITATIONS.

THANKS FOR THAT ...

...YEAH.

...IS WHAT YOU MEANT. RIGHT, LEVI?

IN OTHER WORDS, LET'S KEEP FIGHTING.

...SAVING HUMANITY, REPAYING HANNES AND THE OTHERS—

WHY WAS I THE ONE GIVEN THIS ROLE...? AT THIS RATE...

...

Grip

I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT.

FOR NOW, I'M IGNORANT AND POWER-LESS...!

LEARNING THAT FACT MIGHT BE THE BEGIN-NING OF SOME-THING NEW.

BUT...

...FOR NOW...

WOULD I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL MY TITAN FOR LONGER IF THAT HADN'T HAPPENED?

BUT... WHY DID I THINK OF MY FATHER DURING THE EXPERI-MENTS?

Manga Fire

FATHER...

WHERE ARE YOU LIVING RIGHT NOW...?

...OR ARE YOU ALREADY...

SHUDDER

IS THIS A MEMORY?

...WHEN IS IT FROM?

HISTORIA?

NO, THAT'S NOT HER...

ANY MORE AND...

UGH...

AH...

I CAN'T...
NOT AGAIN...

AH... YEAH ...

HM...?

DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF.

YOU'RE STILL WEAK.

...OUR NEXT STEP IS CLEAR.

NOW THAT WE KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T HARDEN YOUR TITAN...

AS TO WHERE WE GO FROM HERE...

WHAT WAS I JUST THINKING?

MangaFire.to

THEY MIGHT KNOW HOW THEY WERE MADE... OR IN OTHER WORDS, SOMETHING ABOUT TITAN HARDEN-ING.

THEY SEEM TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF THE WALLS MADE OUT OF HARDENED TITANS.

WE'LL GO AFTER THE WALLISTS AND EVERYONE AROUND THEM.

NOW THAT ERWIN'S IN THE ROYAL CAPITAL...

ALSO...

...AND NOT THE RULER OF HUMANITY, THE KING...

...ARE THE ONES ALLOWED TO LEARN THOSE SECRETS.

HE SHOULD KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT WHY THE REISS FAMILY...

MangaFire.to

MITRAS, THE ROYAL CAPITAL

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

IS THAT A GANG OF CHILD THIEVES? I DIDN'T THINK THE ROYAL CAPITAL WOULD BE IN SUCH BAD SHAPE...

IT'S THE SAME EVERYWHERE. EVEN IF YOU TRY TO CRACK DOWN, THE HOLDING CELLS ARE ALREADY OVERFLOWING.

...
CUT ME SOME SLACK, NILE.

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR A CHAT ABOUT OUR DAYS IN THE TRAINING CORPS.

CAN'T EVEN HANDLE A ROYAL SUMMONS ON YOUR OWN?

SO WHAT DO YOU MEAN CALLING AN MP LIKE ME OFF THE JOB AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

IS IT BECAUSE YOU STILL BELIEVE IN THOSE DELUSIONS YOU TALKED ABOUT AS A KID?

...YOU WERE GOING TO DIE AN EARLY DEATH. YOUR RIGHT ARM'S ALREADY WAITING FOR YOU IN THE AFTERLIFE.

I WAS SURE ...

... GOOD FOR YOU.

...AND THOSE DELUSIONS ARE TURNING INTO REALITY.

YEAH...

BY THE WAY, NILE.

WERE YOU AWARE OF THAT?

MINISTER NICK WAS TORTURED THEN KILLED BY THE MP'S INTERIOR FIRST SQUAD.

...I SEE.

... NO.

WE DON'T KNOW THEIR REA-SONS.

WE'RE... JUST FOLLOW-ING ORDERS FROM ABOVE.

WHY DO YOU MPS WANT EREN SO BADLY THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO KILL FOR HIM?

IT SEEMS THEY WANTED TO KNOW EREN'S LOCATION.

Manga Fire

THEY HAVE A FREE PASS TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT.

THERE'S NO ONE WHO EXERCISES OFFICIAL CONTROL OVER THEM, EITHER.

OUR CHAIN OF COMMAND IS DIFFERENT, AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THEM... EVEN WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE THINKING.

AND WHILE WE'RE THE FACE OF THE MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE, THE INTERIOR MPS ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IF YOU TWIST MY ARM.

SO YOU CAME HERE TO HAVE ME TELL YOU SOMETHING YOU ALREADY KNEW?

HUH ...?

...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WILL HANDING EREN OVER TO THEM END THIS CRISIS INSIDE THE WALLS?

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ALL I DO IS CARRY OUT THE JOB GIVEN TO ME.

IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO THINK ABOUT THAT.

WHY DON'T YOU LEARN TO FOCUS A LITTLE?

...

I HEARD HER THIRD ONE'S ON THE WAY.

HOW'S MARIE DOING?

I BETRAYED ALL OF YOU, AND SHAMELESSLY SURVIVED TO THIS DAY.

...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT THEN YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH A GIRL AT OUR FAVORITE BAR, AND CHOSE TO PROTECT THAT ONE WOMAN INSTEAD OF JOINING THE CORPS.

AS I REMEMBER, YOU WANTED TO JOIN THE SURVEY CORPS ALONGSIDE ME.

...!

BUT... JUST BECAUSE YOU FOLLOW ORDERS AND PROTECT YOUR POSITION DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN YOU'RE PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY.

THE SOLDIERS WE TRAINED WITH WHO DIED BEFORE US FELT THE SAME WAY. YOU WERE ABLE TO LIVE IN A WAY WE COULD NOT.

...I RESPECT YOU.

I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT I HAVE A FAMILY.

...BUT I DON'T REGRET IT.

HOPE...

...OR DE-SPAIR ?

RIGHT NOW, OUR SMALL WORLD IS CHANGING.

WHO MAKES THAT CHOICE?

WHO WILL CHOOSE ?

AND WHO WILL YOU TRUST?

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PAT

ポン

YOU JUST KEEP DOING YOUR JOB... I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A WARNING, THAT'S ALL.

IT'S THE ONLY THING I'M GOOD AT.

YOU KNOW ME. YET ANOTHER GAMBLE.

ERWIN... WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

KCHT

I WAS QUITE TAKEN WITH MARIE, MY-SELF.

OH, AND ONE LAST THING ...

I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE...

BUT YOU CHOSE TITANS OVER HER, DIDN'T YOU?!

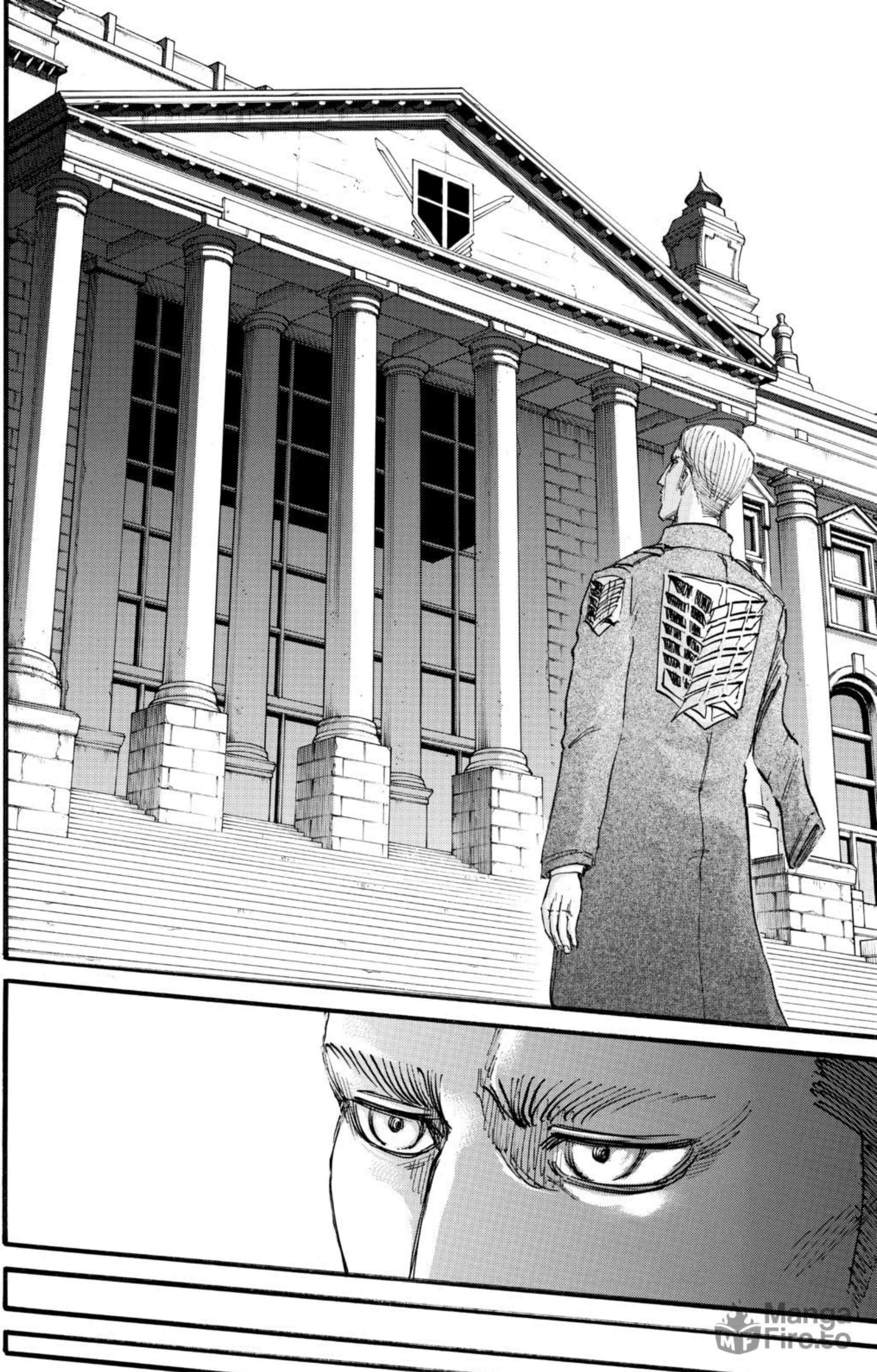
YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW THAT?

... HAH!

...

THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH YOU!

MORE INTERESTED IN TITANS THAN MARIE...



CAPTAIN LEVI... WHAT IS THIS?

Y- YES.

EVERY-ONE READ IT?

DO YOU TRUST HIM?

THOSE DUMB ENOUGH TO SAY YES... COME WITH ME.

IN-STRUC-TIONS FROM ERWIN.

BWOOSH

THAT WAS CLOSE ...

CAPTAIN... ARE THOSE INTERIOR MPS?

IF WE HAD STAYED ONE MORE NIGHT IN THERE ...?

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO US...

THEY DIDN'T TAKE ME TOO SERIOUSLY, EITHER ...

I CAN'T IMAGINE THEY'D ACT DIRECTLY ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, BUT...

BEATS ME.

GOOD THING THE MOON'S OUT TONIGHT.

HURRY TO THE RENDEZ-VOUS POINT.

ZAKK

ZAKK

TROST DISTRICT

Manga Mafire.co

HM ?

AREN'T YOU LEVI?!

HEY...

CHATTER CHATTER

HAH...! I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN HIM ON A HORSE.

HEY, HE'S SMALL ...

THAT'S LEVI, HUMANITY'S STRONGEST SOLDIER!!

I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE, TOO!

IT IS !

YOU'RE IN THE WAY.

...

WE LOST OUT ON A LOT OF WORK BECAUSE OF THAT EVACUATION PLAN YOU SOLDIERS MADE ALL THAT NOISE ABOUT!

COME ON, CAPTAIN. HEAR US OUT!

WE HUMBLE FOLK JUST WANT A WORD WITH YOU.

THE GARRISON RAN OFF SOMEWHERE, AND CROWDS OF THIEVES CAME IN TO TAKE THEIR PLACE.

OUR INCOME'S GONE, AND WE CAN'T EAT.

IT'S NOT JUST US. PEOPLE DON'T COME TO TOWNS BY THE WALL LIKE THIS ONE ANYMORE BECAUSE OF ALL THE UNCER-TAINTY.

I THINK I KNOW WHY.

WHY'D THINGS TURN OUT LIKE THIS? WHY DO THE TITANS KEEP ATTACK-ING?

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

...BUT TAXES ARE AS HIGH AS EVER.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU IN THE SURVEY CORPS AREN'T WORKING HARD ENOUGH.

Manga Fire.to

YOU LAZE AROUND, GET NOTHING DONE, AND YOU STILL GET TO EAT...

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT FOR YOU PEOPLE, IS IT?

I WORK AND GET NOTHING IN RETURN ALL THE TIME.

I'VE ALWAYS BLAMED MYSELF IF I DON'T MAKE MONEY IN MY BUSINESS.

OUT ON A WALK, WOMEN IN TOW... ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY!

EEK!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, STROLLING THROUGH TOWN LIKE THIS? GOING SHOPPING?

RIGHT?

START REPAYING US FOR ALL THE FOOD THE SURVEY CORPS DIDN'T EARN!

...JUST LEAVE SOME MONEY AND GO AWAY.

IF YOU'VE GOT ANY SHAME AT ALL...

MangaFire.to

WATCH OUT!

HEY!

...!

WATCH OUT FOR WHAT?

HUH?

WHAT'S THAT, HUMANITY'S STRONGEST SOLDIER?!

THUD

GRAB

THERE'S A CARRIAGE COMING!!

THUD UD UD UD

THUD UD UD

AHH !!

THUD UD UD

KRISTA AND EREN!!

AR— I MEAN,

THEY'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED AGAIN!!

ARE YOU—

H... HEY...

ROLL ROLL

MangaFire.to

IF THEY'RE FOUND OUT TOO SOON...

... THEY'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE.

WITH THAT HORSE FACE OF HIS...

HE DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE ME...

I HOPE HE'LL BE OKAY ...

LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE.

SO... HOW ABOUT IT?

HAAH
HAAH
I JUST WANT TO HEAR THAT PRETTY VOICE OF YOURS—
UNH…
HAAH
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
HAAH
COME ON.
GAH…
I THOUGHT I WAS DONE WITH BEING…
…THAT BASTARD'S BODY DOUBLE

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE INSIDE?

SWOOSH

HOW'S YOUR LEG?

I SEE.

THEY'RE GOING TO SEE THROUGH ARMIN'S DISGUISE IF WE DON'T HURRY...

I FEEL BAD FOR HIM, TOO.

FWOOO

IT'S MOVING PRETTY WELL...

IT'S NOT BAD.

MangaFire.to

ATTACK
ON TITAN